

yet the Republican leadership insists on recessing at the end of this week to allow extra time for campaigning. Democrats believe we should not adjourn this body until we address this needs of all Americans, not just major corporations and the wealthy few.

To do that, we must deal with the issue of the skyrocketing college tuition costs that are plaguing so many students and their families. Democrats are fighting to restore the \$12 million in student aid recently cut by the Republican Congress, and to finally expand the size of available Pell Grants that those on the other side of the aisle have been blocking for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, since Republicans in this body have no plans to address college affordability, before they head back to campaign, I ask for unanimous consent to bring up a revised Labor, Health and Human Services budget bill that ends the Republican raid on student aid.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the settled guidelines previously cited, that request cannot be entertained.

NO CONGRESSIONAL RECESS UNTIL ACTION IS TAKEN ON ENERGY PRICES

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, as the major oil companies know, it pays to have friends in high places. The Bush administration and this Republican-controlled Congress have an all-too-cozy relationship with Big Oil that has helped those companies rake in the largest profits in American history. The American people paid the price.

Throughout the summer, record high costs at the pump hit families hard. Now, as the winter months approach, these same working families know they may soon face soaring home heating bills. Yet House Republicans refuse to repeal the \$8 billion in tax breaks to their friends in Big Oil.

Democrats want to repeal these outrageous subsidies and use those funds to provide consumers with real relief and real investment in new fuel technologies and biofuels from America's heartland, including my home State of Missouri, and not the Middle East.

House Republicans seem dead set on standing with Big Oil instead of American consumers. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up a bill I am proud to cosponsor, H.R. 4479, which repeals the oil companies' subsidies and gives those breaks instead to consumers, small business and funds the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the settled guidelines previously cited, that request cannot be entertained.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, may I make a parliamentary inquiry? Is that ruling tantamount to an objection to this?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is in the first instance an exercise of discretion in recognition. The gentleman was simply not recognized for the unanimous consent request under the previously announced guidelines for the exercise of discretion in recognition.

As recorded on page 734 of the House Rules Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the gentleman's request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

HIV/AIDS IS WREAKING HAVOC ON AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES ACROSS OUR NATION

(Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, you have heard earlier today that the HIV/AIDS pandemic has wreaked havoc on the African American community across the Nation.

And that is also true for my own district in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where since 1983 over 50 percent of the diagnosed AIDS cases were among African Americans. And while these data are appalling and frightening, we must remember that this is entirely preventable.

We must spread the hope of preventing AIDS. So despite this terrible human tragedy, we must never yield to complacency and silence and ignorance, because complacency and silence and ignorance, of course, leads to death.

We must encourage people to get educated, to get tested, to get involved in the fight against AIDS. But quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, it is this Congress's responsibility to fight this national epidemic by providing the resources for people to be involved in setting aside this pandemic. It is not enough to just say no to sex.

This commitment would involve reauthorizing the Ryan White Care Act. It would involve increasing funding for the Minority AIDS Initiative. Mr. Speaker, we must never look the other way and say that nothing can be done. And I urge my colleagues to take action and to fund these critical initiatives.

INCREASE COLLEGE GRANTS SO MORE TEENS CAN ATTEND COLLEGE

(Mr. BOREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, at a time when America should be encouraging every high school student to attend college, the administration continues to drag its feet when it comes to making college more affordable.

While college costs at a 4-year public college have increased by 57 percent since 2001, the Pell Grant maximum has not been increased for 4 years straight. Investing in education must

be a priority in the United States if it is going to maintain its advantage over other countries in an increasing global economy.

Our education policy must reflect that nothing is more important to our long-term economic growth than an educated work force. We should not leave this week without making this commitment to students across the country. We should bring up and pass an improved Labor, HHS appropriations bill that expands the size and the availability of the Pell Grants.

THE CONGRESSIONAL AGENDA REFLECTS ITS VALUES

(Mr. OBEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of talk on this House floor about values. I would suggest that how we spend our time reveals our values in many ways. This Republican-controlled Congress was able to take the time to debate the fate of horses. They were able to take the time to provide \$290 billion in tax relief for 7,500 of the richest people in the country each year.

They were able to take the time to provide new tax breaks for oil companies. But there was no time, apparently, for providing comprehensive health care reform, and there was certainly no time, apparently, to provide an increase in the minimum wage, which has been frozen for 9 years.

The CEOs from your wealthiest corporations in this country earn more in 4 hours than a minimum wage worker earns in an entire year. And yet the Republican majority found the time to make life easier for the most well-off 1 percent of people in this country, but no time at all to help those who need it most. What kind of values does that represent?

REPEAL TAX BREAKS TO BIG OIL

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that Americans have paid record high prices at the gas pump this summer, the Bush administration and the Republican friends in this body have voted to give tax breaks to big oil companies.

At the same time, they refuse to move forward on policies to achieve energy independence and keep our Nation from relying so heavily on foreign oil. Now American families are facing a long winter of high home heating bills with no end in sight.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats strongly believe that this body should not adjourn until action is taken to address the energy concerns of all Americans. We support a comprehensive policy that will roll back the tax cuts for big oil companies and invest the savings into

developing alternative fuels and achieving energy independence.

Keeping fuel prices under control is essential to working Americans who are struggling to make ends meet. Mr. Speaker, in light of the Republican leadership's unwillingness to address the energy concerns of American families, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 4479, a bill to repeal subsidies for big oil companies and give them to consumers, low-income heating programs, and small businesses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the settled guidelines previously cited, the gentleman's request cannot be entertained.

NO CONGRESSIONAL RECESS UNTIL ACTION IS TAKEN ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leaders of this Congress talk about what they have accomplished during this session. But the fact is, that we have met fewer days than any Congress in history. I am ashamed to say that they have made us the most do nothing Congress ever to serve.

Instead of actually tackling the issues that concern average American families, the Republicans have passed legislation to help their wealthy friends and the huge corporations that support their campaigns.

One example of this is the flawed Medicare prescription drug benefit. This program could have provided significant help to those who need it the most. Instead, it now helps those who need it the least, the drug companies. Democrats believe that the Secretary of Health and Human Services should have the authority to negotiate for lower drug prices under Medicare, just as the VA does.

And so I call on the Republican majority, again, to allow HHS to negotiate drug prices. It will help our seniors and it will help balance the Federal budget.

REAUTHORIZE THE RYAN WHITE ACT

(Mr. TOWNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely disappointed that after an entire year, we cannot get the Ryan White reauthorization process right.

We should not be robbing Peter to pay Paul. That means we should not be cutting precious funds from places like New York, New Jersey, California, and many other States that have historically borne the burden of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

We should have enough money to take care of the people who are most at risk, regardless of where they live. The

amendment that I offered in committee that would have added the needed funds was defeated. But I plan to offer it again on the floor, and I hope that the outcome is very, very different.

We need to get the money to places that have substantially high HIV/AIDS populations, particularly African American and Hispanic women and men, and substance abusers. We cannot leave these most at-risk populations without medications and care.

This reauthorization in its present form does just that. And it is wrong, and I am hoping that the Members of this body will realize that we need to do something about this and should not leave people just to die and die because we are not acting properly.

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REAUTHORIZE THE RYAN WHITE ACT

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the international war chest of AIDS is black Africa, and in our country it is black America. How did half the cases become African American? Even worse, new cases are overwhelmingly black.

We have seen this disease stereotyped as homosexual and now as black. The one constant is its spread. Yet, unlike many diseases today, AIDS is preventable and can be contained and defeated.

The answers are not complicated, beginning with far more visible and substantive leadership, leadership on testing—I will be tested on the Capitol complex grounds in a D.C. health van this afternoon to set an example to help prevent the epidemic spread of this disease among African Americans—leadership on safe sex and condoms; leadership on overcoming homophobia, which is in league with this disease in the black community; and above all, leadership from the Congress of the United States, which must not go home without reauthorizing the Ryan White Act.

HONORING BRUCE CARLSON

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Santa Ana Police Deputy Chief Bruce Carlson, who passed last Thursday after his long fight with liver cancer.

Bruce loved our community and the people of Santa Ana. Bruce joined the Santa Ana Police Department on January 7, 1973, as a patrolman. Through his dedication to service and understanding the concerns of others, Bruce rose in rank to become Field Operations Bureau Commander, overseeing the largest and the most complex operation at the department.

His legacy in Santa Ana is not confined to his work with the police department. Bruce's closest friends know him to be caring, to be a thoughtful man who would go out of his way to help his community.

Bruce demonstrated true courage and maintained a very positive outlook on life throughout his struggle with cancer. He was a tremendous leader and made many significant contributions that helped to make the Santa Ana Police Department the national leader that it is today, especially on homeland security.

Bruce Carlson is survived by his wife and his two children, and our thoughts and our prayers are with him today and with them.

COLLEGE LOANS

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, middle-class Americans are feeling more and more squeezed by the economy that values productivity, but not enough to reward it with an increase in pay. Wages are simply not keeping up with inflation, making it more difficult for families to afford monthly bills.

One of the most daunting bills families face today is the bill for their children's college education. The average cost for a 4-year college at a State university is \$40,000 and the cost for private colleges top \$107,000.

Democrats want to help families better afford these ever-increasing costs. Republicans, on the other hand, refuse to join us in making college more affordable. Earlier this year, they actually made college more expensive for our Nation's students when they cut \$12 billion from the higher education budget, forcing college kids to pay more interest on loans.

Valuable dollars for college assistance are being siphoned off by the war in Iraq, which this administration chose to wage rather than to devote dollars not only to domestic priorities but to finding Osama bin Laden.

Thank you, President Clinton, for telling it like it is and making the administration more accountable for their lack of vision and failed policies.

CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, when this House votes to adjourn, we will be voting to put politics above policies, to put the needs of us as politicians over the needs of the American people, for leadership will insist that we leave without dealing with energy independence; leave while our seniors are falling into the donut hole provided in the poorly planned part D of Medicare; leave before we deal with college affordability; before we deal with tax relief for the middle class, especially the